

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

RELEASE IN FULL

2003

CP. Grant
29 June 1954
(1300)

BERRIES

Items of Possible News Interest

1. The Diaz junta, which had declared the Communist Party (PGT) illegal, nevertheless permitted the escape of several leading Communists. Col. Jose Luis MORALES Melgar, new chief of the Guardia Civil, let Victor Mammel GUTIERREZ, former boss of the CGTG, out the back door of the Cuartel General shortly before midnight on June 28, and GUTIERREZ's present whereabouts are unknown. It is also reported that Carlos Manuel PELLEGER, Communist agrarian leader, was allowed to escape and, with at least six other Communists, is now in the Chilean Embassy.
2. Former Foreign Minister Guillermo TORIELLO has resigned. His present whereabouts are unknown.
3. Col. Rogelio CRUZ Wer, former head of the Guardia Civil, has taken refuge in the Argentine Embassy.
4. The whereabouts of Diaz and Sanchez following their resignation on June 29 were reported as unknown.
5. Chavez NACKMANN, appointed by Diaz to head the official Guatemalan radio (TGW), is reported to have been strongly tainted by association with the Arbenz regime.
6. In amplification of an item in yesterday's BERRIES: On June 24 the Arbenz government sent a circular message, over the signature of one "Cruz", to all departmental governors, instructing them immediately to seize all anti-Communist leaders ("governors") and other municipal employees actually affiliated with the Revolutionary Party (but?) "who have been previously known as anti-Communists" and to "shoot them immediately at the first shot of attack."
7. The new Monzon junta has indicated it wishes to negotiate with Castillo Armas. It has suggested that, if negotiations take place, the Papal Nuncio should be asked to serve as an impartial witness of any agreements made.
8. TGWB Guatemala City (official) home service June 28 reported the CGTG makes an urgent appeal to all volunteer workers, who are already organized in commands and brigades, to appear at their headquarters June 28 at 7:30 a.m.

DD/P